



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING, IN FLAGSTAFF

At the Law Enforcement Administration Facility at 911 E. Sawmill Rd.
Friday February 9th through Sunday February 11th
(Friday 6pm to 9pm, Saturday 8am to 5 pm, Sunday 8am to 4pm)

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office and the Flagstaff Police Department are sponsoring a weekend long Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course beginning on Friday February 9, 2007 in the auditorium of the Law Enforcement Administration Facility located at 911 Sawmill Road in Flagstaff Arizona. This critical, disaster preparedness and response training is offered free of charge to all community members. Basic emergency response equipment will be issued to each successful participant. Interested citizens are urged to call Gerry Blair of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at (928) 699-3721.

Session I, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Session II, DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION
Session III, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS PART I
Session IV, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS PART II
Session V, LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS
Session VI, DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY AND TEAM ORGANIZATION
Session VII, COURSE REVIEW AND DISASTER SIMULATION

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 States and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.